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of economic liberalization as well as judgements of various courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made, if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, have not yet been finalised.

Audit of Employees Provident Fund payments

4492. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the course of recent audit of Employees Provident Fund payments, it was found that money was not being credited to individual accounts of the subscribers for almost three years, as reported in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi Edition, dated 9th April, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for default in P.F. payments and whether the backlog is proposed to be cleared soon and accounts updated; and

(c) whether Employees Provident Fund authorities have tried to plug loopholes in the system after a recent detection in audit, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Default in PF payment is generally attributable to industrial sickness, recession, market fluctuation in demand, technological obsolescence etc. In order to analyze cases of defaulting/inoperative establishments, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has developed a computer software. Based on the result of the computer analysis, the EPF Organisation had launched a drive to secure compliance from such defaulting/inoperative establishments. The Organisation has succeeded in securing compliance from 35021 establishments and PF account statements as on 28.2.2001 have been issued to 3742341 subscribers. Necessary mechanism has also been evolved to detect default on month-to-month basis so as to enable the organization to take prompt action against the defaulters.